

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address multiple impairments in the Middle and South River watersheds. The subject stream segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for bacteria, the General Standard (benthics), or both. The bacteria impairments include 15.7 miles on Upper Middle River, 12.1 miles on Lewis Creek, 7.3 miles on Polecat Draft, 18.1 miles on Lower Middle River, 12.6 miles on South River, and 8.73 miles on Moffett Creek. The benthic impairments include 15.7 miles on Upper Middle River, 12.1 miles on Lewis Creek, 8.73 miles on Moffett Creek, and 31.45 miles on Christians Creek.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The final public meeting on the development of TMDLs to address the impairments in the subject stream segments will be held on **Thursday, March 25, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Board Room at the Augusta County Government Center, 18 Government Center Lane, Verona, Virginia. Directions and a map to the location are available at http://www.mme.state.va.us/Dmm/Training_Schedule/veronadir.pdf.

A copy of the draft TMDL report addressing all of the impairments listed above, except for the Lewis Creek benthic impairment, will be available for review on or before March 25, 2004 on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/tmdlrvpts.html>. The TMDL for the Lewis Creek benthic impairment will be completed at a later date and will be the subject of subsequent public involvement and public comment opportunities. The public comment period for the March 25th meeting and the draft report addressing the remaining impairments will end on April 24, 2004. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Robert Brent, Department of Environmental Quality, 4411 Early Road, PO Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, telephone (540) 574-7848, fax (540) 574-7878, or e-mail rbrent@deq.state.va.us.